

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 SSM-03 SAA-01 /073 W
-----050069 161604Z /43

R 151030Z JUL 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6462
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BAGHDAD 1469

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IZ
SUBJECT: JULY 14 CELEBRATIONS

1. OTHER THAN THE EXCEPTIONAL (VEN FOR BAGHDAD) HEAT WAVE, THE FIRST PHASE OF THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS PASSED WITHOUT ANY PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY DEVELOPMENTS. PRESIDENT BAKR IS SCHEDULED TO DELIVER A MAJOR ADDRESS ON THE EVENING OF THE 16TH, WHICH MAY MARK THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SINGLE EVENT.

2. THE ARRIVALS OF DELEGATIONS PRAISING IRAQ AND STRESSING CLOSE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP, AND THE RECEIPT OF BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS, ALL LISTED IN TEDIOUS DETAIL, SHARED DOMINANCE OF THE MEDIA WITH THE LONG LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE REVOLUTION IN ALL FIELDS. SADDAM HUSSEIN'S SPEECH TO OIL MINISTRY EMPLOYEES, IN WHICH HE STRONGLY STRESSED INDEPENDENCE AS THE BASIS FOR DEVELOPMENT, WAS THE MAJOR PUBLIC APPEARANCE OF THE LEADERSHIP CONNECTED WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JULY 14 ANNIVERSARY.

3. BLOC DELEGATIONS APPEARED TO BE OF THE LOWER-RANKING LEVEL THAT WAS GENERALLY ANTICIPATED. THEY HAVE SHARED PRESS COVERAGE WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMOROS AND MALDIVES, INTER ALIA, AND ARE REPORTEDLY BEING HANDLED WITH COOL CORRECTNESS BY THEIR HOSTS.

4. ONE POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT SIGN IS THE RELATIVELY MINOR ROLE THAT IS STILL BEING GIVEN TO MINDEF ADNAN KHAIRALLAH. AT THE MAJOR MILITARY-RELATED CEREMONY, LAYING OF WREATHS AT UNKNOWN SOLDIERS TOMB, KHAIRALLAH WAS PRESENT AS AN RCC MEMBER ONLY, THE REST OF THE ARMED FORCES ACTIVITIES BEING PLACED IN THE HANDS OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF OR LESSER LIGHTS. ONE OF THE LATTER, REPRESENTING THE POLITICAL GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY, DELIVERED THE PRINCIPAL SPEECH AT THE CELEBRATIONS.

5. COMMENT: THE CITY SEEMS CALM AND RELAXED - IF PARBILED - AND THE CITIZENRY APPEARS TO BE ENJOYING THE CELEBRATIONS. ALL ATTENTION IS NOW FOCUSED ON BAKR'S SPEECH WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RECEIVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE.
PECK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BAGHDA01469
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780292-0368
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780757/aaaabvxc.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9fd80773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1998769
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JULY 14 CELEBRATIONS
TAGS: PINT, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9fd80773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014